

# Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly  
Report



U. S. Department of  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

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## Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States for Week Ended September 5, 1953

The total number of poliomyelitis cases reported for the current week is 2,130, which is nearly 5 percent below the number reported for the previous week, and 44 percent under the figure for the same week last year. It now appears that the peak for 1953 was reached in the week ended August 22. In 1952, the peak week was the third week of September.

The cumulative total for the "disease year" is 18,825 as compared with 26,016 in 1952, and the cumulative total for the calendar year is 20,339 as compared with 27,209 last year.

Thirty-four deaths were reported by 9 States as follows: New York City, 1; Ohio, 4; Indiana, 1; Illinois, 3; Michigan, 9; Minnesota, 9; Florida, 2; Colorado, 1; and California, 4.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

#### Third National Boy Scout Jamboree—Sanitation en route.

Mr. E. C. Garthe, Interstate Carrier Branch, Public Health Service, has prepared a preliminary report on one of the phases of the sanitation program that was designed to protect the Boy Scouts against food and water-borne disease outbreaks while en route from all parts of the country to the Irving Ranch near Santa Ana, California, and on return to their homes. Nearly 30,000 boys and their leaders traveled to and from the Jamboree on 85 special trains and spent an average of 3 to 5 days each way. It is estimated that about 1,000,000 meals were served during the movement. Most of these were eaten in diners or Army kitchen cars attached to the trains; some were loaded onto trains as box lunches; others were served from temporary facilities set up at stopover points in city parks and on station platforms; and the rest were furnished at local hotels or restaurants at stopover points.

The Public Health Service conducted an intensive program whereby each train was inspected at various points throughout its itinerary. Special attention was given to sources of food and water supplies, refrigeration facilities and other kitchen equipment, and personal cleanliness of food-handling employees. Single service utensils were recommended and were used on most of the trains. Local health authorities inspected stopover feeding facilities referred to above. A total of 385 inspections was made of coach and pullman cars, 410 of dining and kitchen facilities, and 278 samples of water were examined bacteriologically. A very insignificant number of the water samples examined were found to be unsatisfactory.

Railroads were, as a rule, very cooperative in providing facilities and conducting operations in a manner which would protect the health of the boys. This is considered to be all the more remarkable since it constituted one of the largest movements of civilians in such a short period of time, and because it taxed the facilities of the railroads at the peak of the summer tourist travel.

Only 2 relatively small food-borne outbreaks have been reported to date, both of which occurred during the westbound trip. One involved 5 persons in a Troop from a western State which consisted of 34 boys and 1 adult. They were ill with diarrhea and fever while on the train or shortly after arrival. A salmonella organism, type not yet determined, was isolated from the stools of 1 boy. Infection is presumed to have taken place on the train, although they had one meal in several different

restaurants of one city during a stopover. Five others in the Troop who had mild gastric upsets, but no diarrhea or fever, were not considered to be cases of salmonellosis. The other outbreak occurred on a train carrying 800 boys from Ohio. Stops were made in Chicago, Kansas City, and Grand Canyon. A total of 35 boys, all in the rear of the train, became ill with cramps and diarrhea at or after leaving Grand Canyon. Inspection showed that refrigeration facilities were very poor in the Army field kitchen car attached to the rear of the train. After the outbreak it was found that the cook had an infection on his hand. This was a staphylococcal food poison outbreak with roast beef, which was served on the train, as the vehicle of infection. The same type of organism was isolated from lesions on the hand of the cook.

#### Botulism

Dr. L. M. Schuman, Illinois Department of Public Health, reports 2 cases of botulism. A man and his sister became ill 12 hours after they had eaten home canned head cheese. The symptoms in one case were nausea, vomiting, and slight diarrhea which lasted a half day. The patient complained of extreme fatigue. His sister complained of fatigue, disturbance of vision, very dry mouth at times, constipation, and difficulty in urinating. She was only slightly nauseated and did not vomit. No laboratory study was made but it was stated that botulinus antitoxin was administered and that both patients are making a satisfactory recovery.

#### Rabies in man

Dr. B. M. Drake, Kentucky Department of Health, reports that a 17-year-old youth was bitten by his dog about the first of May. Rabies was not suspected and thus the dog was not examined for the disease. The victim became violently ill about the middle of July and died 4 days later. The case was diagnosed clinically as rabies but no laboratory study was ever made.

#### Leptospirosis

Dr. A. C. Hollister, Jr., California Department of Public Health, reports a case of leptospirosis in a 57-year-old woman. The symptoms were chills, fever, headache, sore neck, and stiff back. The patient lived on a farm and was exposed to 100 cattle, 3 dogs, and 2 horses. Specimens submitted for laboratory test were positive for *L. canicola*. Although none of the animals on the farm had been sick, a laboratory test on specimens from one of the dogs was positive for the same organism.

#### Interstitial pneumonia

Dr. Hollister reports 4 fatal cases of interstitial pneumonia in 4 premature infants in a hospital in California. Early in July a mother died at the hospital with acute hemorrhagic interstitial pneumonia. The next day the first premature infant developed diarrhea and died. Later, 2 more infants in the same nursery became ill and died. By the 3d of August, 2 additional cases including 1 death had been reported. A similar case occurred in an 18-month-old child who lived in the same area but had never been in this hospital. Various specimens were collected but the laboratory study has not yet been completed.

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## Weekly Morbidity Report

## Psittacosis

Dr. Hollister reports a case of psittacosis in a caretaker of a pet shop in California. The patient was exposed to 12 psittacine birds in the shop. She became ill with a slight cough, pain in chest, and fever. The illness was at first diagnosed as virus pneumonia. The complement fixation test on a blood specimen taken 6 days after onset of illness was positive for psittacosis in a dilution of 1:8. A specimen taken 1 month after onset was positive in a dilution of 1:32. Laboratory tests on 3 birds by animal inoculation were not complete at the time of this report but it was stated that the second passage was negative.

## Shigellosis

Dr. J. E. McCroan, Jr., Georgia Department of Public

Health, reports an outbreak of shigellosis involving 44 of 121 boys attending a mountain camp. Clinical diarrhea resembling shigellosis had been common in the area for 6 months, but the only traceable contact with the local population was through the water supply. This had apparently been contaminated by loggers who had illegally established themselves on the camp watershed. Lightning caused failure of an automatic chlorinating apparatus approximately 1 week before the outbreak and manual operation of the system thereafter gave very uneven results. *Shigella flexneri* type 6 was isolated from 15 campers and from an unrelated patient in a local hospital. The earliest case had its onset 6 days before the modal period of onset. The camp nurse apparently contracted the disease by contact. Repair of the chlorinating apparatus was followed by cessation of the epidemic.

Table 1. COMPARATIVE DATA FOR CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES

(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	TOTAL FOR WEEK ENDED		5-year median 1948-52	Approximate seasonal low week ended	CUMULATIVE TOTAL SINCE SEASONAL LOW WEEK		5-year median 1947-48 through 1951-52	CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR		5-year median 1948-52
	Sept. 5, 1953	Sept. 6, 1952			1952-53	1951-52		1953	1952	
Anthrax-----062	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	22	23	38
Botulism-----049.1	-	1	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	7	10	---
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	37	34	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,234	1,481	---
Diphtheria-----055	33	45	81	July 1	317	327	663	1,349	1,708	3,672
Encephalitis, acute infectious---082	22	78	28	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	740	1,380	594
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092, N998.5 pt.	406	256	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	21,988	10,794	---
Malaria-----110-117	50	239	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,053	6,239	---
Measles-----085	807	660	701	Sept. 1	807	660	701	411,485	641,888	551,414
Meningococcal infections-----057	51	43	40	Sept. 1	51	43	40	3,816	3,552	2,717
Poliomyelitis, acute-----080	2,130	3,817	1,870	Apr. 1	<sup>2</sup> 18,825	26,016	14,220	<sup>2</sup> 20,339	27,209	15,382
Rabies in man-----094	-	2	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	6	13	---
Rocky Mountain spotted fever---104A	7	6	14	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	250	275	383
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050, 051	745	622	264	Aug. 1	4,412	3,920	1,280	104,019	79,785	56,353
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	16	13	26
Trichiniasis-----128	6	4	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	<sup>3</sup> 284	249	---
Tularemia-----059	10	8	15	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	383	453	678
Typhoid fever-----040	62	73	76	Apr. 1	1,230	1,305	1,305	1,513	1,686	1,713
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	3	2	---	Apr. 1	140	94	---	178	121	---
Whooping cough-----056	789	616	988	Oct. 1	32,496	48,723	72,306	23,969	33,608	49,119
Rabies in animals-----	113	102	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	5,189	5,652	---

<sup>1</sup>Not computed.

<sup>2</sup>Deduction: Nebraska, week ended August 15, 1 case.

<sup>3</sup>Addition: Illinois, week ended August 29, 1 case.

## SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

These provisional data are based on reports from State and territorial health departments to the Public Health Service. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding

Saturday. When the diseases which rarely occur (cholera, dengue, plague, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted under the table above.

Symbols.—1 dash [-]: no cases reported; asterisk [\*]: disease stated not notifiable; parentheses, [( )]: data not included in total; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.

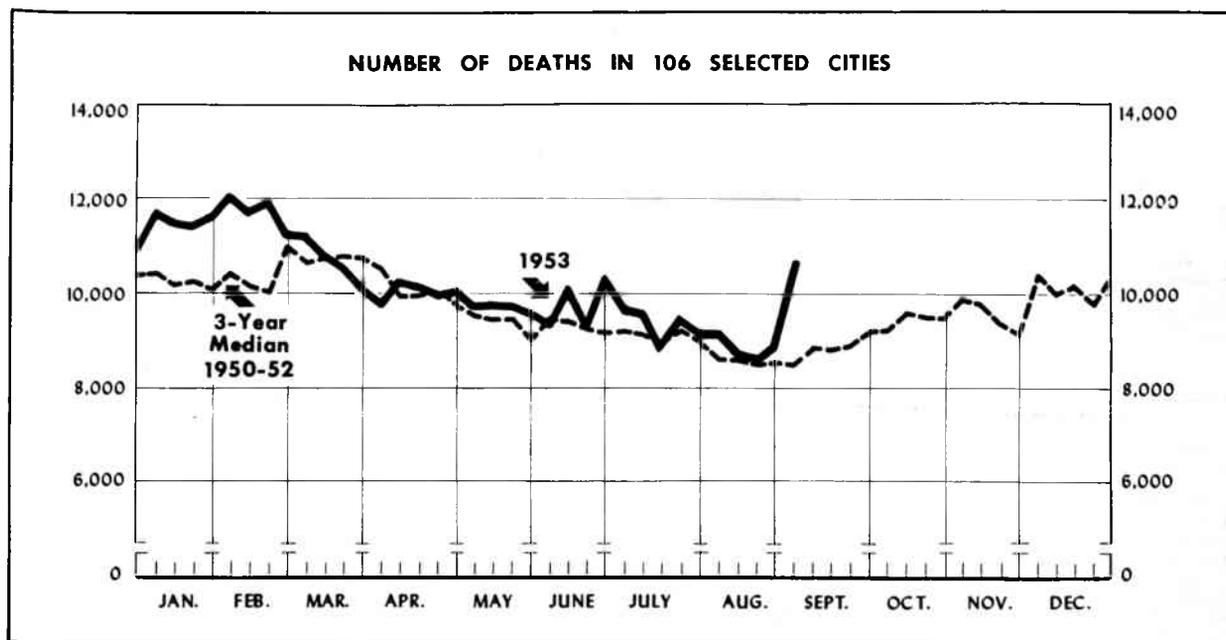








Provisional Statistics for Deaths in Selected Cities for  
Week Ended September 5, 1953



A sharp rise in mortality occurred during the first week of September. A total of 10,318 deaths was reported by a group of 100 major cities of the United States for the week ended September 5, exceeding by 27 percent the 3-year median for the corresponding weeks of 1950-52. This increase was associated with the heat wave which spread over States east of the Rocky Mountains in the last week of August and continued into the first week of September.

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	35th week ended Sept. 5, 1953	34th week ended Aug. 29, 1953	35th week median 1950-52	Percentage difference between current week and median	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 35 WEEKS		
					1953	1952	Percentage difference
TOTAL: 100 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,318	8,608	8,154	+26.5	342,456	332,522	+3.0
New England----- (13 cities)	643	559	530	+21.3	21,522	21,315	+1.0
Middle Atlantic----- (15 cities)	3,253	2,420	2,342	+38.9	99,718	97,898	+1.9
East North Central----- (17 cities)	2,536	1,974	1,890	+34.2	77,545	74,672	+3.8
West North Central----- (7 cities)	687	560	516	+33.1	21,698	20,530	+5.7
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	839	616	665	+26.2	27,428	27,146	+1.0
East South Central----- (7 cities)	381	546	328	+16.2	15,736	14,968	+5.1
West South Central----- (13 cities)	695	665	678	+2.5	27,401	25,981	+5.5
Mountain----- (7 cities)	213	205	186	+14.5	8,457	7,856	+7.7
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,071	1,063	1,012	+5.8	42,951	42,156	+1.9

## Weekly Mortality Report

Table 5. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED  
SEPTEMBER 5, 1953

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

CITY	35th week ended Sept. 5, 1953	34th week ended Aug. 29, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 35 WEEKS		CITY	35th week ended Sept. 5, 1953	34th week ended Aug. 29, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 35 WEEKS	
			1953	1952				1953	1952
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston-----	248	201	7,854	7,741	St. Paul-----	74	68	2,215	2,110
Bridgeport-----	33	26	1,181	1,221	Wichita-----	33	29	1,401	1,367
Cambridge-----	36	24	973	1,054	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Fall River-----	27	21	984	934	Atlanta-----	90	86	3,672	3,470
Hartford-----	41	42	1,592	1,563	Baltimore-----	261	180	7,957	8,229
Lowell-----	25	33	888	872	Charlotte-----	22	28	1,003	989
Lynn-----	24	15	776	754	Miami-----	55	43	2,122	1,880
New Bedford-----	27	27	826	817	Norfolk-----	35	24	1,135	1,085
New Haven-----	38	29	1,513	1,491	Richmond-----	65	56	2,271	2,394
Providence-----	71	73	2,115	2,193	Tampa-----	43	42	1,865	1,896
Somerville-----	11	15	542	561	Washington, D. C.-----	227	130	6,244	6,086
Springfield, Mass.-----	43	32	1,367	1,295	Wilmington, Del.-----	41	25	1,159	1,117
Waterbury-----	19	21	911	819	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Worcester-----	(47)	---	---	(1,867)	Birmingham-----	68	76	2,584	2,412
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Chattanooga-----	35	37	1,619	1,584
Albany-----	38	35	1,568	1,436	Knoxville-----	23	28	1,133	1,133
Buffalo-----	139	118	4,990	4,743	Louisville-----	104	109	3,712	3,459
Camden-----	51	27	1,278	1,250	Memphis-----	75	212	3,759	3,383
Elizabeth-----	18	26	933	1,045	Mobile-----	35	36	1,102	1,085
Erie-----	30	30	1,192	1,161	Montgomery-----	(20)	(28)	(958)	(927)
Jersey City-----	---	(57)	---	(2,510)	Nashville-----	41	48	1,827	1,912
Newark, N. J.-----	120	79	3,644	3,648	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
New York City-----	2,072	1,348	55,582	54,568	Austin-----	22	19	901	809
Paterson-----	46	37	1,362	1,304	Baton Rouge-----	25	24	530	550
Philadelphia-----	420	411	16,818	16,606	Corpus Christi-----	17	6	605	567
Pittsburgh-----	145	128	5,980	5,996	Dallas-----	94	83	3,346	3,110
Rochester, N. Y.-----	---	(79)	---	(3,173)	El Paso-----	21	22	968	957
Schenectady-----	16	28	821	801	Fort Worth-----	37	50	2,032	1,890
Syracuse-----	53	52	1,877	1,805	Houston-----	102	108	4,382	4,049
Trenton-----	49	39	1,646	1,520	Little Rock-----	29	47	1,505	1,587
Utica-----	22	26	1,093	1,017	New Orleans-----	153	128	5,596	5,292
Yonkers-----	34	36	934	998	Oklahoma City-----	52	43	1,927	1,808
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	54	62	2,863	2,670
Akron-----	57	52	2,038	1,912	Shreveport-----	46	30	1,381	1,314
Canton-----	40	49	1,005	969	Tulsa-----	43	43	1,365	1,378
Chicago-----	978	630	26,097	25,114	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	148	130	5,110	4,902	Albuquerque-----	23	30	941	886
Cleveland-----	284	161	7,153	7,194	Colorado Springs-----	11	9	471	452
Columbus-----	112	99	3,667	3,469	Denver-----	110	104	3,831	3,529
Dayton-----	59	61	2,179	2,064	Ogden-----	11	7	433	447
Detroit-----	288	298	11,038	10,689	Phoenix-----	9	16	802	722
Evansville-----	34	17	1,148	1,195	Pueblo-----	19	11	479	404
Flint-----	.38	32	1,289	1,192	Salt Lake City-----	30	28	1,500	1,416
Fort Wayne-----	46	27	1,068	1,035	Tucson-----	(2)	(2)	(173)	(176)
Grand Rapids-----	28	40	1,362	1,262	PACIFIC				
Indianapolis-----	120	102	3,911	3,836	Berkeley-----	17	17	583	645
Milwaukee-----	125	108	4,299	4,126	Long Beach-----	44	43	1,635	1,589
Peoria-----	33	38	1,095	1,025	Los Angeles-----	381	407	15,478	14,997
South Bend-----	---	(13)	---	(803)	Oakland-----	75	95	3,294	3,351
Toledo-----	97	85	3,216	3,059	Pasadena-----	19	34	1,178	1,123
Youngstown-----	49	45	1,870	1,639	Portland, Oreg.-----	93	61	3,490	3,289
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					Sacramento-----	44	31	1,648	1,605
Des Moines-----	62	45	1,748	1,701	San Diego-----	65	62	2,466	2,462
Duluth-----	29	26	950	882	San Francisco-----	161	157	6,595	6,642
Kansas City, Kans.-----	---	---	---	(1,227)	Seattle-----	103	94	3,994	3,841
Kansas City, Mo.-----	170	104	4,396	3,916	Spokane-----	35	42	1,435	1,426
Minneapolis-----	---	(99)	---	(3,945)	Tacoma-----	34	20	1,155	1,186
Omaha-----	64	66	2,294	2,198	Honolulu-----	(35)	(24)	(1,104)	(1,142)
St. Louis-----	255	222	8,694	8,356					

Symbols.—parentheses [ ( ) ]: data not included in table 4; 3 dashes [ --- ]: data not available.